

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 179428
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR:DJW
APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE
H - MR. PUGH (SUBSTANCE)
H - MR. JENKINS
EUR/EE - MR. SCHMIDT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, YO, US

SUBJECT: GLIGOROV VISIT: DOES THE RIGHT HAND KNOW...

REF: BELGRADE 4998

1. IN PONDERING THE DILEMMA POSED BY THE YUGOSLAV DESIRE TO AVOID CROWDING THE GLIGOROV AND KARDELJ VISITS INTO SEPTEMBER AND CONGRESS' DESIRE TO ADJOURN BY MID-OCTOBER, IT IS BECOMING CLEAR TO US THAT POSTPONING THE VISIT UNTIL CONGRESS RETURNS NEXT YEAR MAY BE THE BEST COURSE. WE AGREE WITH THE YUGOSLAVS THAT GLIGOROV'S COMING IN SEPTEMBER (HAMILTON'S OFFICE ORIGINALLY HAD IN MIND SEPTEMBER 12-13 IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL DAYS TRAVELING ELSEWHERE.) WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE. IT WOULD STRAIN EUR'S RESOURCES AT A TIME WHEN WE SHOULD BE PUTTING OUT A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO PREPARE FOR KARDELJ. AS IT IS, FINANCE MINISTER CEMOVIC WILL BE COMING DURING

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PAGE 02 STATE 179428

THIS SAME PERIOD.

2. HAMILTON'S OFFICE HAS NOW INFORMALLY SUGGESTED BEGINNING THE VISIT OCTOBER 3 IN WASHINGTON AS AN ALTERNATIVE, BUT SINCE THIS IS ONLY A WEEK AFTER THE KARDELJ VISIT, WHICH IS NOW SLATED FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 26,

THERE WOULD BE LITTLE TIME TO PREPARE FOR GLIGOROV.

3. NOVEMBER IS OUT, BECAUSE (BELIEVE IT OR NOT) CONGRESS INTENDS TO ADJOURN ABOUT MID-OCTOBER. EVEN THE SCEPTICS, ALLOWING FOR SOME SLIPPAGE, MAINTAIN THAT CONGRESS WILL MAKE IT BY THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER.

4. THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE IS INTENT ON ARRANGING A FIRST CLASS VISIT FOR THE YUGOSLAVS TO RECIPROCATATE FOR THE SEVEN DAYS THE ALBERT DELEGATION SPENT IN YUGOSLAVIA. HAMILTON'S OFFICE SAYS THAT MANY MEMBERS GENUINELY WANT TO MEET WITH THE YUGOSLAVS. THE DEPARTMENT WILL NATURALLY ASSIST IN AND PROBABLY BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE ARRANGEMENTS. THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY WILL LEND A HAND IN ORGANIZING SUCH THINGS AS MEETINGS WITH LOCAL GROUPS OUTSIDE WASHINGTON.

5. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THE YUGOSLAVS CAN OBJECT TO THIS SINCERE DESIRE TO DO RIGHT BY GLIGOROV. KEEPING IN MIND THAT IT IS THE YUGOSLAV PREFERENCE TO AVOID SEPTEMBER AND WITH THE REALIZATION THAT CONGRESS WILL NOT BE IN SESSION IN LATE OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, WE BELIEVE THE VISIT SHOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR EARLY NEXT YEAR.

6. ADDITIONALLY, THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY HAS JUST NOTIFIED US THAT AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI DISCUSSED THIS WHOLE PROBLEM WITH CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI ON JULY 27. ZABLOCKI TOLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 179428

BELOVSKI THAT THE BEST TIME WOULD BE EITHER THE LAST WEEK OF JANUARY, THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY OR THE LAST WEEK OF FEBRUARY. THE YUGOSLAV EMBASSY INDICATED THAT IT UNDERSTANDS THE SITUATION AND BELIEVES WE SHOULD PLAN ON THE BASIS OF ZABLOCKI'S SUGGESTIONS.

7. ACCORDINGLY, WE REQUEST THAT EMBASSY EXPLAIN TO THE YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTRY THE FOREGOING AND PRESENT THE ZABLOCKI PROPOSAL. VANCE

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